

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS.

Claims 40-48 and 51 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 49, 50, and 52-68 being cancelled herein.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION.

Pursuant to a restriction requirement made final, Applicants cancel claims 49, 50, and 52-68 with entry of this amendment. Please note, however, that Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the cancelled subject matter and that the claim cancellations should not be construed as abandonment or agreement with the Examiner's position in the Office Action.

OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING.

Claims 40-48 and 51 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in light of claims 1, 14-17, 20, and 27-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,136,558. Office Action, page 4. The Examiner indicated that a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,136,558 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) would overcome the rejection. As this Amendment is accompanied by such a Terminal Disclaimer, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

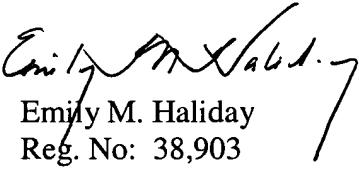
CONCLUSON

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3509.

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Respectfully submitted,


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